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**To: Examiner D.C. Jones**  
USPTO**Facsimile: (703) 308-4556**  
**Phone: (703) 308-4634****From: Kate H. Murashige****Date: November 19, 1998**

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

MURRER et al.

Serial No.: 08/913,960

Filing Date: 2 January 1998

For: PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITION  
CONTAINING SELECTED  
LANTHANUM CARBONATE  
HYDRATES

Examiner: D.C. Jones

Group Art Unit: 1614

## AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to an Office action herein mailed 11 September 1998, time for response to which was set to expire 11 December 1998. The pending claims, claims 1-9 were rejected or objected to. Applicants appreciate the courtesy and thoughtfulness extended their undersigned representative in an interview regarding this application on 18 November 1998. The grounds for rejection have been carefully considered and the following amendment and discussion are offered in response. Indication at the interview of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 7 and 8 (method to prepare the claimed hydrates) and claims 10-13 (methods to treat hyperphosphataemia using the hydrates) is greatly appreciated. However, for completeness of the record, the following discussion addresses these claims as well as claims 1-3 and 5 (claims to pharmaceutical compositions). Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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